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Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature

Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5]

Recalling its resolutions 65/164 of 20 December 2010 and 64/196 of 21 December 2009 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[6]

Recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled "International Day of Nowruz", and its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development",

Taking into account the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which took place on 20 April 2011, to commemorate the

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.
[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[5] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 2, annex.
[6] Resolution 37/7, annex.

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International Mother Earth Day and to advance the holistic thinking undergirding the concept of sustainable development,

Noting the holding of the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held from 4 to 6 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

Aware that mankind is a part of nature and that life depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems which ensure the supply of energy and nutrients,

Expressing its deep concern about the environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on ecosystems,

Recognizing that gross domestic product is not an adequate indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the work carried out by experts on the need to develop adequate tools to measure progress towards global sustainability,

Also recognizing that the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three pillars of sustainable development delays the implementation of sustainable development,

Further recognizing that current consumption and production patterns worldwide are taking a heavy toll on the Earth and its resources, and that world consumption and production need to converge towards a sustainable range, with developed countries taking the lead,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise more sustainable models for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Welcomes* the second report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;[7]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 20 April 2012, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to discuss scientific findings in relation on how human activities are affecting ecosystem functions and natural environmental cycles;

[7] A/66/302.

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 20 April 2012, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue making use of the existing information portals on sustainable development maintained by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge, and existing national legislation, with a view to making substantive contributions to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and beyond;

5. *Invites* the participants at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to consider issuing a declaration recognizing the rights of nature, its intrinsic value and the need to maintain its regenerative capacity;

6. *Calls upon* donors, the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to support the efforts made by the developing countries to develop and strengthen their basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development and to provide capacity-building and technical support, especially to the developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify new ways and means to use the work of experts to better measure the progress towards global sustainability for the benefit of Member States;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.